

# Community Newsletter

January 2022 Edition



## Mayor's Note



Happy New Year! I hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday season. It's been a treat to see the way so many of you have decorated your homes and celebrate the holiday spirit.

As we enter 2022, I'd like to express my gratitude for the service of Judge Patrick Carroll, who retired from the Lakewood Municipal Court bench earlier this month. Judge Carroll has been a pillar of Lakewood city government for over three decades. His status as the longest tenured judge in our city's history happened for good reason.

Since 1990, Lakewood has benefitted from Judge Carroll's fair-minded approach and innovative views on how to make the court serve the people of Lakewood and everyone who came before it seeking justice. Just

consider that Judge Carroll has won the President's Award for Judicial Excellence from the Association of Municipal and County Court Judges of Ohio **twice** in the past five years.

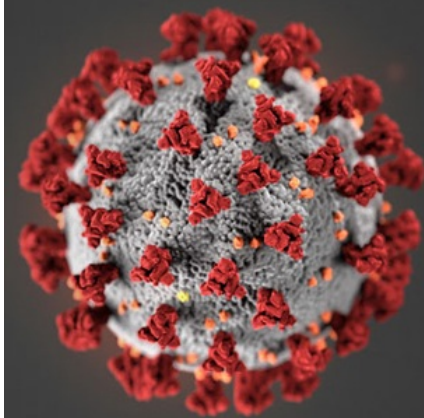
Recently, his steady hand has been especially helpful as the court navigated the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and the strains it put on the City's court system. It's no surprise that Judge Carroll was asked to teach courses on how the pandemic impacted landlord-tenant law to the state judiciary. We all owe him our thanks for serving Lakewood so faithfully over his tenure.

I'd also like to congratulate Councilwoman Tess Neff, who won election to become the new Lakewood Municipal Court Judge. We will all miss her hard work and sharp mind on city council, but we also look forward to her serving the city in her new role. Councilwoman Neff will have some big shoes to fill when she takes the baton from Judge Carroll, but I know she will continue his legacy of providing the people of Lakewood with justice.

As you likely heard, on December 23, the parking garage at the Marine Towers West apartment building suddenly collapsed. Fortunately, no one was injured, and Lakewood's first responders performed exceptional work in securing the site and ensuring everyone's safety. We are also deeply grateful for the help of numerous other regional partners who responded to assist. An investigation is ongoing regarding the cause of the collapse and we will update you all once it is complete.

I want to close this note by expressing shock and sadness after hearing about the senseless killing of Cleveland Police Officer Shane Bartek during a carjacking on Friday evening. On behalf of the City of Lakewood and The Lakewood Police Department, I want to offer our condolences to Officer Bartek's loved ones and his fellow officers in Cleveland for their tragic loss.

Mayor Meghan F. George



## COVID-19 Updates

With the current increase in COVID-19 cases in our community, Mayor George is working closely with each city department to ensure departments are able to run effectively and safely. This includes some departments working remotely, and others working in shifts to minimize contacts.

The City of Lakewood is committed to providing the high-quality services that residents expect, and every effort is being made to continue to do that while keeping employees safe and healthy.

## Upcoming Events & Updates

**Due to the uptick in COVID-19 cases locally, many in-person meetings, programs, and programs are on hold. Please be sure to check the calendar of events for updates.**

### Calendar of Events

## Understanding Your January 2022 Water Bill

### January Water Bill Breakdown

Water and sewer rates increased on 1/1/2022. This billing period covers usage before and after that date, so usage has been split and charged by the number of days at the 2021 and 2022 rate.

Impervious surface fee effective 1/1/2022

DESCRIPTION OF CHARGES			AMOUNT
WATER USAGE: X.XX	2021 (CCF)	x 2021 water rate =	\$ XX.XX
WATER USAGE: X.XX	2022 (CCF)	x 2022 water rate =	\$ XX.XX
SEWER USAGE: X.XX	2021 (CCF)	x 2021 sewer rate =	\$ XX.XX
SEWER USAGE: X.XX	2022 (CCF)	x 2022 sewer rate =	\$ XX.XX
IMPERVIOUS FEE: 1.00 ERU			\$ 2.00
CURRENT CHARGES:			\$XXX.XX
PREVIOUS BALANCE:			\$0.00
<b>AMOUNT DUE:</b>			<b>\$XXX.XX</b>
<b>DUE DATE: January 10, 2022</b>			



### Woman's Club Pavilion Rental

The Woman's Pavilion, an enclosed year-round facility available for public meetings or get-togethers, recently underwent an HVAC System Replacement Project. The upgrades were complete in December. However, with the current high number of COVID-19 cases, the Woman's Pavilion will not be available for rentals in January or February.

Click [here](#) for more information on how to access the online pavilion reservation system.

## New Neighborhood Police Officers



*Patrol Officer Neil Thibodeaux*



*Patrol Officer William "Bill" McCarthy*

The Lakewood Police Department is happy to announce that two new Neighborhood Police Officers, Patrol Officer Neil Thibodeaux and Patrol Officer William "Bill" McCarthy, began serving in their new roles on January 1st. P.O. Thibodeaux is assigned to Ward 1, the far west end of the city, and P.O. McCarthy is assigned to Ward 3, roughly between Belle Ave. and Nicholson Ave. in the middle of Lakewood. They join our existing two Neighborhood Officers, Patrol Officer John Winters (Ward 4) and Patrol Officer Ariana Zuk (Ward 2).

Officer Thibodeaux, a U.S. Navy veteran, has been a police officer with Lakewood PD since 2001, and has served in various capacities since to include Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Accident Investigator, as a member of our SWAT team, and most recently as a Detective in our Narcotics Unit. Officer McCarthy, a U.S. Army veteran, has been a police officer with Lakewood PD since 2002, and prior to that was a full-time Corrections Officer with Lakewood since 2000. Officer McCarthy has served in various capacities to include Patrol Officer and Accident Investigator, and is currently a member of our SWAT team.

Officers Thibodeaux and McCarthy join Officers Winters and Zuk in the role of providing direct service to their assigned wards and their respective members of City Council. Their primary responsibilities will be to tackle ongoing quality of life concerns, such as noise, vandalism, and petty theft, and to work in cooperation with area residents to alleviate these issues. Their goal is to become familiar with their neighborhoods and residents, and to proactively handle lingering problems before they become more serious in nature.

Officer Thibodeaux can be reached via cellphone at (216) 701-5331, or at his office at 14812 Detroit Ave. #200, which he will share with Officer Zuk, and Officer McCarthy can be reached via cellphone at (216) 334-5657 or at his office at 12400 Madison Ave., which he will share with Officer Winters.

*A new feature of the monthly e-newsletter will be a spotlight on Lakewood's safety forces, introducing residents to the brave individuals serving the City of Lakewood every day.*

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## The City of Lakewood is Hiring!

The City of Lakewood is currently seeking applicants for the following openings:

- Entry Level Patrol Officer
- Lateral Patrol Officer

- Full-Time Corrections Officer
- Finance Manager
- Division of Aging Bus Driver
- Part-Time Tax Auditor
- Full-Time Building Inspector
- School Crossing Guard
- Community Resource Specialist



For further details regarding all our job opportunities and to apply, please visit [here](#).

## Winter Safety Reminders

### Be warm and safe this winter!

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- NEVER use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters, or central heating equipment according to local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



Click [here](#) to download a helpful winter freeze checklist for homeowners.

